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Section 1

GENERAL INFORMATION

GOAL OF APDT RALLY FOR ALL DOGS

APDT Rally is intended to promote positive relationships between dogs and owners that are based on trust and mutual respect. To this end, APDT Rally Rules and Judging Guidelines encourage positive reinforcement and rewards during APDT Rally competitions and prohibit the use of physical or harsh verbal corrections. The goal is for APDT Rally to be accessible and enjoyable for all dogs and their owners.

ELIGIBILITY

- Dogs must be registered with APDT Rally in order to be eligible to compete. There is a one-time registration fee per dog-owner team. Discounts are given for proof of spay/neuter of dog and for members **in good standing of the APDT**. Forms and current fee information are available on the APDT Rally site. **Forms must be mailed to the APDT Rally office; online and/or fax registration is not available. Exhibitors must allow 2 – 4 weeks for processing.**
- All breeds of dogs and mixed-breed dogs that are at least six (6) months of age are eligible to compete in APDT Rally for All Dogs.
- Female dogs in estrus may not compete.
- Dogs may be exhibited at all levels of APDT Rally by the owner or by a member of the owner's immediate family, which is defined as a mother, father, spouse, life partner, brother, sister, child, grandparent, or grandchild.
- Dogs with disabilities are allowed and encouraged to compete in APDT Rally. In the event a dog's disabilities prevent the team from performing an exercise as described, the handler shall provide the judge with an Exercise Modification Form with a written description of how they intend to perform any of the course exercises that must be modified to accommodate the dog's particular disability. The form must be submitted prior to the start of the class and approximate, to the best of the dog's ability, the original course exercise. No exercises may be omitted. All exercises on the course must be completed. If the judge approves the modification(s), the judge will initial and attach the Exercise Modification Form to the team's score sheet. **Approval of the Exercise Modification is at the discretion of the judge. Judging guidelines may not be modified.**
- Exhibitors with disabilities are allowed and encouraged to compete in APDT Rally. Motorized scooters and wheel chairs are allowed. In the event an exhibitor's disabilities prevent the team from performing an exercise as described, the exhibitor shall provide the judge with an Exercise Modification Form with a written description of how he/she intends to perform any of the course exercises that must be modified to accommodate the exhibitor's particular disability. The form must be submitted prior to the start of the class and approximate, to the best of the exhibitor's ability, the original course exercise. No exercises may be omitted. All exercises on the course must be completed. If the judge approves the modification(s), the judge will initial and attach the Exercise Modification Form to the team's score sheet. **Approval of the exercise modification is at the discretion of the judge. Judging guidelines may not be modified.**

COLLARS AND LEASHES

- Dogs must be shown in a flat buckle or snap collar, a properly fitted limited-slip collar (martingale), or standard harness. Collars may have tags on them provided they do not

interfere with the dog's motion. APDT does not allow the use of choke chains, slip collars, prong collars, head halters, "no-pull" harnesses, and one piece collar/leashes or slip leashes. Decorations and/or costumes are not allowed.

- Leashes must be made of materials such as leather, nylon, or cotton. Retractable and metal chain leashes are not allowed.
- While not in the ring, dogs are required to be on leash at all times unless they are confined to a fenced-in exercise area, crate, or designated off leash area.

EXCUSAL FROM THE RING AND/OR TRIAL SITE

- Trial site includes the crating area, warm up area, outside exercise area, parking lot, and any place occupied by the dogs and handlers entered in the day's trials.

INJURIES, LAMENESS, AND ELIMINATION

- Any dog that is brought into the ring with bandages, stitches, or tape must be excused by the judge and may not be brought back into the ring later, even if the bandages or tape have been removed.
- Any dog that appears in pain, discomfort or goes lame while on course must be excused by the judge. The judge's decision is final and will be based on his/her observation of the dog on the day of the event.
- Any dog that eliminates in the ring or demonstrates illness, such as vomiting, must be excused by the judge.

AGGRESSION

- Threatening or aggressive behavior includes, but is not limited to, snarling, baring teeth, growling, and/or air-snapping.
- Any dog that in the officiating judge's opinion exhibits threatening behavior or threatens the safety of any persons or dogs while in the ring will receive a non-qualifying score and be excused from the ring and the trial site. Refusal of the handler to comply shall result in permanent removal of that dog and that handler's APDT Rally eligibility.
- Any dog that in the officiating judge's or representative's opinion exhibits threatening behavior or threatens the safety of any persons or dogs while on the trial site will be excused from the competition. In order to ensure the safety of others the officials shall request that the dog be removed from the trial site or confined in such a manner as to remove the threat to others. Refusal by the handler to comply shall result in permanent removal of that dog and that handler's APDT Rally eligibility.
- Any dog that without provocation attempts to bite/attack or bites/attacks another dog or person inside and/or outside the ring will be removed from the trial site immediately and will be permanently banned from all sanctioned APDT events.
- Any officiating judge, representative, and/or trial host witnessing threatening or aggressive behavior must file a report on any incidents of aggression with the Rally Coordinator within one week of the trial date.

- The owner of any dog that exhibits threatening behavior anywhere on the trial site will be issued a written warning from the APDT Rally office. A second warning will result in permanent suspension of the dog's APDT Rally eligibility. A written warning will be sent to the owner by the Rally Coordinator by certified mail and the warning will go in the dog's records.
- Two complaints for threatening or aggressive behavior filed against an individual will result in that individual being unable to participate in or attend APDT Rally events for a period of two years.
- A list of banned dogs is available on the APDT Rally's Trial Host Yahoo Group (APDTRallytrialhosts) under the "Database" section.

EXHIBITOR CONDUCT

- Inappropriate or threatening behavior may include but is not limited to shouting, foul language, argumentative or unsportsmanlike behavior.
- Upon entering a trial exhibitors agree to abide by the host's rules. Failure to do so will result in being excused from the trial site.
- Any host excusing an exhibitor from the trial site must file a report to the APDT Rally Coordinator within one week of the trial date.
- Any exhibitor or person on the trial site that in the officiating judge's or representatives opinion exhibits threatening or inappropriate behavior may be excused from the ring and the show site.
- Two complaints filed against an exhibitor and confirmed by APDT will result in that exhibitor being unable to participate in or attend APDT Rally events for a period of two years
- Any officiating judge, representative, or host witnessing threatening or inappropriate behavior by an exhibitor must file a report with the Rally Coordinator within one week of the trial date.
- Officiating judges may excuse any exhibitor who delivers a physical or harsh verbal correction while in the ring.
- Officiating representatives or the host may excuse any person from the competition who delivers a physical or harsh verbal correction while on the trial site.

EXHIBITOR INQUIRIES AND GRIEVANCES

- Exhibitors with grievances regarding events, hosts, officials, other exhibitors, dogs, or courses may submit a written complaint to the host the day of the trial. The host shall submit this complaint to the APDT Rally office with the trial paperwork. Exhibitors may submit individual complaints after the trial directly to the APDT Rally office.
- Exhibitors with questions regarding discrepancies in their online records may submit an Administrative Research Request Form to APDT. Form and fee information for this service are available on the Forms page of the APDT Rally web site.
- Exhibitors who wish to obtain a replacement registration number, change registration information, or have a certificate reprinted must file an Administrative Research Request Form. This form is available on the Forms page of the APDT Rally web site.

ENTERING A TRIAL

- The trial host will make available a premium with pertinent information and an entry form. Entries and fees are submitted directly to the trial secretary designated in the premium. Any questions regarding the trial should be submitted to the person(s) designated in the premium. Confirmation of entries shall be sent to each participant. Trial hosts may not accept entries that do not include a valid APDT Rally registration number.

HOSTING A TRIAL

- Sanctioned Rally trials can be hosted by any organization or individual. Trial events are listed on the APDT Rally web site. Trials may be held either indoors or outdoors. Trials may include Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Puppy, Veteran, and Junior classes but need not include all levels. Up to three trials may be held in the same day. Please refer to the chapter on Hosting a Trial for full details.

RING SIZE

- The recommended rally ring size is approximately 50 x 80 feet for Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 courses. Minimum ring size is 40 x 50. Ring shape may be irregular with approval from the APDT Rally office. Please refer to the chapter on Hosting a Trial for full details.

RING PROCEDURE

Exhibitors must wait for the judge to indicate they are to enter the ring and must then go directly to the start sign. The judge will ask if the team is ready and if so, will indicate they are to begin. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on-leash. In off-leash classes the judge will either take the leash from the exhibitor and keep the leash until the team is done or will take the leash and hand it to the ring steward. The judge will advise the exhibitors of the procedure during the walk-through and judge's briefing. The entrance and/or entrance and exit to the ring must be kept open. Openings may not be closed or blocked by stewards, spectators, etc in order to keep a dog from leaving the ring.

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